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Oregon Public Records Advisory Council Announces its First Public Records Survey

Salem, OR (January 15, 2019) – Today the Oregon Public Records Advisory Council sent out its first ever Public Records Practices and Procedures Survey. The Council, which was created as part of the 2017 public records reforms, is composed of a mix of requesters and government representatives. It is tasked with making proposals to improve transparency in the state of Oregon and with regularly conducting surveys to gather information about public records practices.

The online survey is being sent to a diverse group of public bodies, including state and local government agencies across the state of Oregon. The survey includes questions about how many public records requests the public body receives, how long it takes to process those requests, what fees are being collected and how they are calculated, where members of the public can find the public body's legally-required public records policy, and what training officials are receiving on public records. The Council has asked the public bodies to respond by the end of February.

The Council will share the survey data with the public and will prepare a report that analyzes the data.

“This data will allow the Council, the legislature, and the public to have informed discussions about how the public records law is actually functioning in the State of Oregon,” said Ginger McCall, Oregon Public Records Advocate and the Chair of the Public Records Advisory Council. “It will give a clearer picture of what training and further reforms are needed.”

The Council, with the help of Representative Karin Power and Senators Prozanski, Thatcher, and Boquist, has proposed legislation that will require that state agencies annually report similar data in the future. The Council has also proposed, with the help of those sponsors, that the Council be permitted to continue this important work beyond its current January 1, 2021 sunset.

A copy of the survey questions and full list of the public bodies being surveyed is attached to this press release. Questions may be directed to Ginger McCall, Public Records Advocate, 503-378-5228, ginger.mccall@oregon.gov.

Survey Questions

1. Please provide the name, job title, and contact information of the person completing this survey.
2. Please provide the name(s), job title(s), and contact information of the official(s) within your public body to whom public records requests may be sent, as per ORS 192.324(7).
3. Please provide a URL link or a copy of your publicly posted public records policy, as per ORS 192.324(7).
4. How many public records requests has your public body received in calendar year 2018?
5. How many public records requests received in calendar year 2018 were completed within the fifteen (15) business day deadline prescribed in ORS 192.329?
6. How many public records requests received in calendar year 2018 were completed within sixty (60) days of the date the request was received by your public body?
7. As of the date of your response to this survey, how many requests for a fee waiver or reduction has your public body granted for requests received in calendar year 2018? How many requests for a fee waiver or reduction were denied?
8. As of the date of your response to this survey, what is the total approximate amount of fees that your public body collected related to the fulfillment of public records requests in calendar year 2018?
9. Does your public body track the costs incurred in processing public records requests? If so, please explain how the requests are tracked.
10. Have members of your public body received training on public records laws during 2018? If so, from whom?

List of Public Bodies Surveyed

- All executive branch state agencies
- Oregon's 10 most populous cities:
 1. Portland
 2. Salem
 3. Eugene
 4. Gresham
 5. Hillsboro

6. Beaverton
7. Bend
8. Medford
9. Springfield
10. Corvallis

- 10 other geographically and population-diverse Oregon cities:

1. Astoria
2. Baker City
3. Coos Bay
4. Hermiston
5. Klamath Falls
6. La Grande
7. Lincoln City
8. Oregon City
9. Pendleton
10. Redmond

- 10 Oregon counties:

1. Clackamas
2. Jackson
3. Klamath
4. Lane
5. Malheur
6. Marion
7. Multnomah
8. Tillamook
9. Umatilla
10. Washington

- 10 Oregon school districts:

1. Beaverton School District
2. Bend-La Pine School District
3. Eugene School District
4. Gresham-Barlow School District
5. Hillsboro School District
6. Medford School District
7. North Clackamas School District
8. Portland Public Schools
9. Salem-Keizer School District
10. Tigard-Tualatin School District

- 10 Special Service Districts:

1. Columbia 9-1-1-Communications District
2. Deschutes Valley Water District
3. Jefferson CO RFPD #1
4. Lincoln Soil and Water District
5. Malheur County Soil and Water District
6. Metro Regional Government
7. Rainier Cemetery District
8. Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue
9. Tualatin Valley Water District
10. Yamhill Communications Agency